

# URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, BARNARD CASTLE.

## Medical Officer's Annual Report (ordinary).

1922.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the Annual Report for the above year.

### 1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	575
Population	...	...	...	...	4,566
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	1,050
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers	...	...	...	...	1,075
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£19,424	12s. 4d.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£70

I am glad to be able to report that the health of the Town during the year has been exceptionally good, as the various Vital Statistics given later will show.

As regards Infectious Disease especially so, as only 13 cases altogether were notified during the year, and unfortunately 6 of the cases, by their sequence, necessitated the opening of the Isolation Hospital on four different occasions.

5 cases of Scarlatina were notified and 2 of Diphtheria, also 6 of Pneumonia. These figures are satisfactory, considering that Scarlatina has been prevalent in the County during the year, and that the atmospheric conditions have been unfavourable. The County Medical Officer, in May, reported to me the outbreak of several slight cases of Small Pox in the County, and in my Monthly Report, in consequence of that information, I considered that cases of Chicken Pox should be made notifiable as there is a danger of mistakes being made between slight cases of Small Pox and severe cases of Chicken Pox.

In this connection, and as there are several cases of Small Pox in the country, I must especially call the attention of the Council to the necessity of making provision for the more adequate treatment of Small Pox cases and suggest the union of the three Councils, viz. the Urban District Council of Barnard Castle, the Rural District Council of Barnard Castle, and the Rural District Council of Startforth, for the purpose of providing treatment for Small Pox cases in a suitable building and suitable place in the area of the three Councils for their common use.

I must again refer to the difficulty of dealing with cases of overcrowding or closing unfit dwellings, as there is an evident want of suitable accommodation for the housing of the poorer labouring classes, and would suggest that until proper accommodation can be provided, either by public or private enterprise, that the Council press for improvements to, and repairs of, properties that can be made "reasonably" fit for a "term of years."

In this connection I am pleased to report that five houses suitable for the requirements of the "middle" classes have been erected during the year, 3 of which were occupied.

During Health Week Pulpit references were made, and special clinics were given by the School Teachers, and a special lecture given by one of the County Medical Staff on health matters, all of which were much appreciated.

2.—WATER SUPPLY.—The quality and quantity of the supply was satisfactorily maintained during the greater part of the year. Unfortunately, owing to the small reserve following the necessary clearing out of the Reservoir and an early drought, it was found advisable to purchase 2 week's supply from the Tees Valley Water Board.

The Reservoir and Springs were inspected in July, by Mr Cross, Inspector to the Ministry of Health, and reported to the Council at the August Meeting. I was glad to note that defective portions of the stoneware gravitating main were taken up at the Street Head Farm and relaid with cast iron pipes. I consider that where necessary this work should be continued.

3.—RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The foreshore of the River is still polluted by certain Householders adjacent to the River, by throwing their domestic refuse into the River. As warning notices have been given, I consider they should be prosecuted.

4.—DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—No complaint has been received as to the condition of the Effluent from the Sewage Farm, but it is evident that, owing to the constantly increasing number of water closets, new houses, etc., further means of treatment are required.

It is satisfactory to note that an old open stone drain on the Bank had been discovered and re-connected to the Council sewer, and it is very essential that these old sewers were modernised and brought to a proper standard.

In my judgment a scheme comprehending the whole system is desirable, but in view of the great outlay required, I would suggest that, as part of such scheme, certain sections could be re-laid annually.

5.—CLOSET ACCOMMODATION AND HOUSE REFUSE.—The conversion of Privy Ashpits and Pail Closets into Water Closets should be rigorously continued, and I am glad to note that the Council are dealing with the objectionable nuisance caused by setting out overnight of house refuse on the street kerbs.

Year.	Estimated Population.	In-corrected Number.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths in District.			
			Nett.		Number.	Rate.	Non-residents Registered.	Residents Not Registered.	Under One Year.		At All Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1920	5061	...	83	16.39	58	11.46	8	3	9	108.43	53	10.47
1921	4737	94	92	19.42	69	14.56	5	4	7	85.10	68	14.35
1922	4566	74	71	15.54	66	14.45	14	1	5	70.42	53	11.16

7.—CAUSES OF DEATHS REGISTERED DURING 1922.  
(Classified by Age and Cause).

Causes of Death.	All Ages	Under one year	One and under two years	Two and under five years	Five and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and upwards	Deaths in Institutions, Workhouses, etc.
Causes { Certified Uncertified	64 2	7	5	1	1	1	6	16	27 2	13
Whooping Cough ... ..	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer ... ..	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	5	1
Old Age (Sclerosis)... ..	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Apoplexy (Cerebral) ... ..	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	7	1
Phthisis Chronic (Fibroid) ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Phthisis (Tubercular) ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Meningitis (Tubercular) ... ..	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza ... ..	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1
Pneumonia ... ..	4	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	1
Bronchitis ... ..	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	3
Pleurisy ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Nephritis ... ..	3	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Liver (Cirrhosis) ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Spinal Myelitis ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Enteritis ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Heart Disease ... ..	6	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	1	1
Cyclic Vomiting ... ..	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pancreatitis ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Gastritis ... ..	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pyloric Stenosis ... ..	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Marasmus ... ..	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Atelectasis ... ..	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Inquests ... ..	5	1	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...
Totals ... ..	64	7	5	1	1	1	6	16	27	13

All ages, 66; Males, 34; Females, 32; Registered "out," 14; "in," 1. Nett Deaths=53; Deaths under 12 months=7; "Out"=2; Nett deaths=5; Rate per 1,000 nett births=70.42.

One death was notified from Whooping Cough, none from Measles or Diarrhoea. No woman died in, or in consequence of, Child-birth.

8.—BIRTHS REGISTERED DURING 1922.

Births {		Males.		Females.	
		Legitimate	Illegitimate	Legitimate	Illegitimate
		-	-	33	29
		-	-	4	8
		37		37	

Total, 74: Non-resident 3, leaving a total of 71 and a rate per 1,000 of 15.54.

9.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1922.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlatina ... ..	5	5	Nil
Diphtheria ... ..	2	1	Nil
Pneumonia (4 influenzal)	6	—	Nil
Tuberculosis:			
Pulmonary { M. ... ..	1	—	1
{ F. ... ..	1	—	1
Non-Pulmonary { M. ... ..	Nil	—	—
{ F. ... ..	Nil	—	—

Tubercular Meningitis (not notified) M. 1; F. 1. Both patients died.

I am of opinion that many cases of Tuberculosis, especially the Non-Pulmonary forms, are not notified. The one death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis which occurred during the year had been notified.

10.—CAUSES OF SICKNESS.—There were no special causes of Sickness or Invalidity during the year requiring comment.

11.—NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, &c.

There is a local Nursing Association, consisting of some Members of the Council and a Voluntary Ladies Committee. A qualified District Nurse is provided, and the Public can have her service on payment of a nominal fee.

The County Council assist the Association by annual grants towards Health Visiting and Midwifery. The ordinary expenses are met by the Association.

The District Nurse is the only practising midwife, and acts under the Authority of the County Council and the Association.

12.—CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.—Fortnightly consultations are held at which the Medical Officer of Health (who acts as Medical Officer) and the District Nurse, assisted by lady members of the Committee of the Nursing Association, attend. Advice is given to both mothers and children, and in necessitous cases (either pre-natal or post-natal) milk is provided (on the certificate of the Medical Officer) by the County Council.

Part of the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health and District Nurse are paid by the Ministry of Health, as Officials under the Maternity and Child Welfare Movement.

There are no Day Nurseries or School Clinics.

Tuberculosis cases, where necessary, are referred to the County Medical Authorities (centred in Darlington) and treated in Sanatoria when suitable, and venereal diseases are also referred to the same Authority when required.



### 13.—HOSPITALS.

There are no Special Hospitals for Tuberculosis, Maternity, or Children in the District.

There is one Fever Hospital, with a special detached building for Smallpox cases. It is situated in the Country, half-a-mile outside the boundary of the Urban Area. It is isolated and in its own ground and accommodates up to 24 Children or 14 Adults, and is mainly confined to cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.

The special building for Smallpox cases would accommodate 6 Adults, if necessary, but in my opinion the whole question of the adequate treatment of Smallpox cases, both as regards the building and its position, should be seriously considered by this Council, as I have previously mentioned.

The expenses for the Hospital are met by the Urban Council, occasionally assisted by charges made in cases of patients able to pay towards their treatment and upkeep.

The Workhouse Hospital is the only Institution for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children in the district.

Ambulance facilities consist of a properly built van for removal of infectious cases, and a hand ambulance, provided by public subscription, for non-infectious and accident cases where necessary.

14.—LABORATORY WORK.—All pathological and bacteriological examinations and all sera and vaccines and diphtheria anti-toxin are attended to and supplied by the Medical Officer of Health where necessary or required.

List of Adoptive Acts, Bye-laws and Local Regulations relating to the Public Health :—Public Health Act, 1907 ; Factory and Workshops Act, 1901 ; Dairies, Cow-sheds and Milk Shops Order, 1885 ; The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922 ; Bye-laws under the Public Health Act, 1875.

### 15.—SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The Inspector of Nuisances Report, which summarises the work done by his department, and includes many visits and inspections by the Medical Officer of Health, in conjunction with the Inspector, with respect to Infectious Diseases, Dairies, Cow-sheds and other cases occurring under the Public Health Acts :—

	Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling-houses and Schools—Structural Defects	7	5	11
Cowsheds	2	—	—
Ashpits and Privies	—	6	14
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	1	—	1
Water Closets	3	—	3
House Drainage—Defective Traps	2	3	5
—Other Faults	27	1	29
Water Supply	20	16	36
Animals improperly kept	—	1	1
Other Nuisances	1	—	1
Workshops	2	—	2
Pail-closets	—	1	1
Totals	65	33	104

WATER, FOOD AND DRUGS.—Seizure of unwholesome food, 1 (voluntarily reported).

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease, 7.

GENERAL.—Number of New Houses erected during the year	5
Number of such Houses occupied during the year	3
Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets	nil
Ashpit-privies converted into Water-closets	14
Ash-closets converted into Water-closets	2
Total number of Water-closets in district	884
Total number of Ash-closets in district	50
Total number of Ashpit-privies in district	49

16.—FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.—One Workshop has been added to the Register. Two nuisances, following informal notice, were abated.

17.—COMMON LODGING-HOUSE.—One only, at 23, Bridgegate, is kept in a satisfactory condition.

18.—DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS ORDER, 1885.—The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act came into operation during this year, which conferred additional powers to the Council for safeguarding the production, distribution and sale of Milk. I consider this Act of much importance and a great help towards the insurance of a healthy Milk Supply.

Under the new provisions, 16 persons have been registered or re-registered as Retail Purveyors and 3 persons have been registered as Wholesale Traders and Producers.

Registration of 1 person as a retailer was refused.

19.—SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—There are 7 Licensed Slaughter-houses in the district. I have again to call the attention of the Council to the fact that the manure pits for the reception and storage of offal and other refuse are not in accordance with Bye-law 15, which requires proper bins with covers to be provided for their reception and speedy removal.

The conditions otherwise are fair, considering the situation and construction of one or two of the older Slaughter-houses.

20.—PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.—The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time officer. He also acts as Medical Officer to the Maternity and Child Welfare movement. Grants are made to his salary for both appointments by the Ministry of Health.

The Inspector of Nuisances and Surveyor is a whole-time officer. Half of his salary as Inspector is paid by the Urban Council, and half by the County Council.

The District Nurse is a part-time officer. She is a Queen's Nurse, acts as Maternity and Child Welfare Nurse, and holds a Certificate for Midwifery. She is also a health visitor, acting under the County Council.

## 21.—HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—(a) Total		5
(b) As part of municipal housing scheme		nil
I.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.		
<i>Inspection.</i> —(1) Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)		32
2. Number of Dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910		4
3. Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation		nil
4. Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation		2
II.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.		
Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers		7
III.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.		
A. <i>Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &amp;c., Act, 1919.</i>		
1. Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs		2
2. Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—		
(a) by owners		8
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners		nil
3. Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners or intention to close		nil
B. <i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts.</i>		
1. Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied		32
2. Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied:—		
(a) by owners		34
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners		nil
C. <i>Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &amp;c., Act, 1909.</i>		
1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders		nil
2. Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made...		nil
3. Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Dwelling-houses having been rendered fit		nil
4. Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made		nil
5. Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders		nil

22.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.—This movement continues to make very satisfactory progress. During the year 569 Infants were in attendance, also Mothers, 454. Amount of Dried Milk sold, 311 lbs.; Wool Garments supplied, 26; Patterns given away, 6; Virol, Cod Liver Oil, Parrish's Food, Olive Oil and Dressings amounted to £5 2s. 10d.

The District Nurse also gives advice and instructions to expectant and nursing mothers and as to the proper feeding of infants at the meetings of the Maternity and Child Welfare. Her salary is paid by the Nursing Association, with grants from the Urban and County Councils through the Ministry of Health. I feel confident that the Council and the public will continue to support this movement, which is so important in advising expectant and nursing mothers, and in the proper feeding and bringing up of infants.

23.—TUBERCULOSIS.—Only 4 cases were notified during the year; one, a woman of 34 years of age, and one, a man of 52 years of age, were cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

One, a woman of 27 years of age, was a case of Tubercular Spinal Disease; and one, a child of 3 years of age, from Tubercular Disease of one of the ankle bones.

All cases of Tuberculosis are advised as to the necessity for disinfection and paramount need of cleanliness and fresh air.

All cases are reported to the County Medical Officer, and, when required, are referred to the County Authorities at the Dispensary in Darlington, and if suitable, they are removed to a Sanatorium for special treatment.

Weekly returns of all cases notified are sent to the Ministry of Health and the County Medical Officer.

One death was registered during the year from Tuberculosis of the Lungs, a man 52 years of age. This gives the extraordinary low rate of 21 per 1,000 of the estimated population at 4,566.

## 24.—VITAL STATISTICS—SUMMARY.

DEATHS.—The total number of deaths registered during the year was 66. Of these 14 were of non-residents registered and 1 of a resident not registered, thus giving a total of 53, and a rate of 11.16 per 1,000 of the estimated population at 4,566.

BIRTHS.—The total number of births registered during the year was 74; but 3 were of non-residents registered, thus giving a total of 71, and a rate of 15.54 per 1,000 of the estimated population at 4,566.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—7 deaths were registered during the year of infants under 12 months. Two were "non-residents," thus giving a total of 5, and a rate of 70.42 per 1,000 nett births.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**CHAS. H. WELFORD,**

March, 1923.

Medical Officer of Health.